

SECRET

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SEA-361-68

DATE: 24 December 1968

TO : Director, DCS
Attn : Alien Staff

FROM : Chief, [] Office

SUBJECT: Case 32254 -- Fred Z. Launags

REF : Portland Resident Agency Memorandum for the Record dated 17 December 1968

1. Attached is a transcript of my 20 December 1968 telephone conversation with Deputy Sheriff William McCluskey, Thurston County, Washington, regarding the arrest of Subject on 15 December 1968.

2. Subject was released from the Thurston County jail on 18 December 1968 and proceeded on his journey to Portland, Oregon. His release was facilitated by an FBI resident agent who deposited \$13.05 with the Sheriff's office to cover Subject's bus fare to Portland (\$3.05) and \$10.00 for immediate living expenses. I provided these funds but Subject was not advised of this.

3. Mr. Hugh Judd, Thurston County Deputy Prosecutor, wanted to press trespassing charges against Subject but decided to drop the charges at the request of the Sheriff. [] advises me that Subject is currently in residence at the Portland YMCA and is broke. Subject hopes to find work in the Portland area. Whether he is successful remains to be seen.

4. Subject left some luggage in the storeroom of the Seattle YMCA. The contents of the suitcase have been examined and nothing was found that would be of interest to us, the FBI or Secret Service. [] will keep you advised of Subject's activities as he learns about them.

[] []

WHR:ks

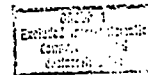
Attachment

cc: Portland Resident Agent w/att



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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

Conversation with William McCluskey, Deputy Sheriff, Thurston County, re
Fred Leunags, 20 December 68

[Fred Leunags]

[15 Dec 68]

1 I first met this man, ... it was last Sunday evening, down in the Rochester area.
2 I received a report from a passing motorist who lived in the area where this
3 thing all took place. If you want any of the names or anything I can give
4 you that. Have to go back in my book here a minute. The original reporting
5 party on this thing was Larry Brown, and he lives out in the Rochester area.
6 Mr. Brown flagged me down on the street, and reported there was a strange man
7 on the street, dressed in a white raincoat, light colored hat, and he had been
8 going from door to door on the old 99 highway. From what I have been able to
9 find out this fellow had gone to 4 or 5 houses down there -- the story I get
10 is that he was looking for some place to stay. He evidently thought that these
11 houses were motels, or something. He would go to one door, and ask if the
12 landlord was there -- kind of a funny acting character. Anyway he wound up
13 down at the William F. Ingram residence, and there was no one at home there,
14 so my friend Fred he just opened the back door and went in. By the time I got
15 there, down at the Ingram place, this fellow was out in the front yard. Everyone
16 was scared of him -- there were 4 or 5 men standing around at the scene, and
17 they were a little leery of the guy, you know. There had been a report earlier
18 that this fellow had reached for a knife in one of the local restaurants. Just
19 who was involved in this, I don't know, but the man definitely did have a knife
20 on him because I took the knife away from him.
21 WHR: Was it a dangerous type weapon, or--?
22 It was a sheath type knife -- had maybe 4-5 inch blade on it. Hunting type knife.
23 I talked to the man down there at the Ingham place, and he admitted being in
24 there - he said there was no one home. Said he walked in the back door looking
25 for the landlord, and he wanted to stay there. Well - there were other men
26 involved in this. Once Fred had gone into the house these other two men in
27 the neighborhood called the Ingram house. They called two different times, and
28 both times, Fred answered the telephone. Anyway, I bagged the man - arrested
29 him as a vagrant - and I took him into the county building, where he was booked
30 for such. Mr. Hugh Leunags [Thurston County Deputy Prosecutor] said "Vagrant" - he said "that's covering quite a
31 bit of ground. Better charge him as a trespasser." Well, whatever they
32 wanted to do - that was fine with me, because he was kind of a minor deal, really.

McCluskey

Because he didn't steal anything - he had just walked into the man's house -
in one door and out the other. So we got the fellow down to court -- I don't
1 think he understands what was going on, or what the judge had to say. Anyway
2 he wanted an attorney, which is naturally his right, so we took him back
3 upstairs, and the following day I went back into the office and I find that he
4 was gone. So I don't know, ^{what} ~~whether~~ you people want to do with
5 him -- that's fine with me.

6 WHR: Well, he was released on the 18th, wasn't he?

7 Right.

8 WRH: And you picked him up on Sunday.

9 Right. It was late Sunday evening.

10 WHR: Was it after dark?

11 It was dark. The time was ... the time I got the report from this Larry
12 Brown was 8:50 in the evening.

13 WHR: And then you probably picked him up what - half an hour later?

14 Oh, yes. It was a good half hour later because I sat down at the Ingram
15 place and talked to the man for - oh, half hour. The booking time, I just
16 can't tell you what the exact time was, ^{he booked in up there} but it was late in the evening.

17 WHR: Did he threaten anyone, or try to smart off in any way?

18 No, sir, not that I knew of. The only other report that I had was that down
19 at the Jiffy Restaurant, ^[the Ingram] I was told that he had reached for a knife down there,
20 but I could not run down the other man involved, so -- I just took that with
21 a grain of salt. I'm not going to go on just one man's say so.

22 WHR: I wonder why he was carrying -- did you ask him why he was carrying
23 a knife like that?

24 No - I asked him for the knife, and he handed it to me. I told him I wanted
25 his other knife, and he reached in his pocket and pulled out another knife.
26 I asked him what he was doing down there - he said he was moving. He was moving
27 from Seattle, and he was moving to downtown Portland. He said that he had
28 walked all that way, from Seattle down to the Ingram place, out of Rochester.

29 WHR: That's quite a hike.

1 You bet it is. Anyway, the man didn't have any money. He had a suitcase full
2 of -- well, it looked like breakfast food, and instant coffee -- that kind of
3 stuff. I don't know -- he was kind of a strange character all right.

4 WHR: Did you see him in jail on the 16th and 17th?

5 I went in -- the office called me on the following morning - that was Monday
6 (the 16th). They wanted me to come over - they said they wanted to have a
7 hearing on this thing - they wanted to get the man out of there. So I went
8 over. But the man didn't understand what he was being charged with -- he wanted
9 an attorney. He didn't have any home address -- he listed his home address as
10 Latvia. I don't know whether he just wanted to be hard to get along with, or
11 whether he just didn't understand the whole thing, or just what the problem
12 was, but the way the thing is the judge said take him back upstairs -- we'll
13 have to wait until the man has an attorney, and also so the man fully understands
14 just what's going on. So I took the man back upstairs. I was told in between
15 this time that the government had something to do with the fellow -- so I'll
16 leave it up to them.. It will probably one of these in and out type deals -
17 the guy is here today and gone tomorrow.

18 WHR: I don't find Rochester on the map - where is that?

19 That is between Tenino and Interstate 5. Actually the town proper
20 would be west of Interstate 5. The Rochester address covers a fairly good size
21 area down there.

22 WHR: Now I see it. It's on the West side of Interstate 5. How did he get
23 into Tenino, I wonder? Well, that's old 99 -

24 Old 99. He was downtown, and then he went ... that would be southwest on old 99-
25 just how he got into town I don't know, unless maybe he rode one of the trains.
26 The main line goes through there.

27 WHR: And the restaurant business -- that occurred in the Jiffy Restaurant?

28 Right.

29 WHR: Where was that?

30 That is downtown Tenino. But I checked with the owner down there and he said
31 no, he didn't recall any strange happening down there at all. This guy is here
32

McCluskey

all night - he's open around the clock. I figured well, maybe they're just trying to bum beef this guy or something. So I just let the knife thing slide, because I wasn't going to go on just one man's say-so.

WHR: Right, right. Well, thank you, very very much, Officer McCluskey. I appreciate this, ~~very much~~. I tried to get something out of Mr. Judd here - he didn't have the facts too straight - thought if I went to the horse's mouth - so I appreciate very much your giving this information. He's on his way, and apparently is in Portland, so you may-

Well, I understood that he had something to do with the government, so I said well, it's strictly up to them. Whatever they want to do with the guy - that's fine and dandy with me.

- end -